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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/374,136	08/10/1999	DAVID A. MONROE	121817.002.020	3360

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EXAMINER

PATEL, KANJIBHAI B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2624

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/22/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/374,136	Applicant(s) MONROE, DAVID A.	
	Examiner Kanji Patel	Art Unit 2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-6,10,11,17-41,43-48 and 53-60 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 53-60 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-6,10,11,17-41 and 43-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 August 1999 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/18/06 has been entered.

Claims 1, 7-9, 12-16, 42 and 49-52 are cancelled. Claims 2-6, 10-11, 17-41, 43-48 and 53-60 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 2-6, 10-11, 17-48 are rejected under 5 USC 102 (e) as being anticipated by Feder (US 5,872,845-IDS).

For claim 2, Feder provides a facsimile transmitting/receiving system (figures 1, 5-7) comprising a standard facsimile machine (110 in figure 1) and a computer (130 and 150 in figure 1, provide computer) based system in communication (140 in figure 1

provides communication) with the standard facsimile machine (170), the system comprising:

a. an interface (120 and 160 in figure 1 provide interface) positioned intermediately of and in communication with both the facsimile machine (110 and 170 in figure 1) and the computer (130 and 150 in figure 1, provide computer);

b. a line (140 network in figure 1 provides a line) for receiving and sending facsimile signals in communication with the interface for selectively communication directly with the facsimile machine (110, 170) and the computer (130, 150);

c. means for converting encoded (225 in figure 2A) documents to formats (230) compatible with computer-supported systems and with the facsimile machine;

wherein said means is further adapted for converting facsimile signals to a format for transmission over distributive communication networks (140 in figure 1; 540 in figure 5; 640 in figure 6; 740 in figure 7) and for converting network transmitted signals in a format for transmission over a facsimile transmission line (at least figure 6 shows clearly facsimile transmission line).

For claim 3, Feder discloses the facsimile system wherein said interface further includes means for sending and receiving facsimile signals over a standard telephone line (at least in figure 5 interface is provided for sending and receiving fax between location A and location B via telephone network 522 and 562).

For claim 4, Feder discloses the facsimile system wherein said interface further includes means for sending and receiving facsimile signals between the computer and the facsimile machine (at least in figure 5 interface is provided for sending and receiving

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fax between the computer (530, 550) and fax machines 570 between location A and location B).

For claim 5, Feder discloses the facsimile system wherein said interface further includes means for sending and receiving facsimile signals between the facsimile machine and the telephone line (at least in figure 5 interface is provided for sending and receiving fax between fax machine at location A and fax machine at location B via telephone network 522 and 562).

For claim 6, Feder discloses the facsimile system wherein said interface further includes means for sending and receiving facsimile signals between the computer and the telephone line (at least in figure 5 interface is provided for sending and receiving fax between the computer (530, 550) and fax machines 570 via telephone networks 522 and 562).

For claim 10, Feder provides a method for transmitting a facsimile signal from a local station (110) to a remote station (170) via a distributive communication network (140) comprising the steps of:

- a. generating a facsimile signal (at least fax machine 110 in figure 1 generates a facsimile signal; column 5, lines 17-28) utilizing a standard facsimile at the local station (at least 110 in figure 1 provides a local station);
- b. converting the signal to a format compatible with the network (column 5, lines 22-34);
- c. transmitting the converted signal via the network to a remote station (170; column 5, lines 25-26);

wherein both the local station and the remote station are facsimile machines (110 and 170 are facsimile machines), and further comprising the steps of:

- a. receiving the converted transmitted signal at the remote station (column 5, lines 22-34);
- b. reconvertng the transmitted signal to a facsimile format (column 5, lines 22-34);
- c. receiving the reconverted, transmitted signal at a standard facsimile machine (column 5, lines 27-34).

As to claim 11, Feder discloses a method for transmitting a facsimile signal from a local station (figure 1, element 110) to a remote station (figure 1, element 170) via a distributive communication network (figure 1, element 140) comprising the steps of:

- a. generating a facsimile signal at the local station (column 5, lines 17-24);
- b. converting the signal to a format compatible with the network (column 5, lines 17-24);
- c. transmitting the converted signal via the network to a remote station (column 5, lines 17-34).

As to claim 17, Feder discloses an interface (120, 130) for use in combination with a facsimile receiving/sending station (110, 170, 570) and an Internet interface (140, 540), comprising means for converting a signal to be transmitted/received by the facsimile station/from a format compatible with the network (Figures 1, 5-7; column 5, lines 7-34).

As to claim 18, Feder discloses a network further comprising a telephone line (figure 5, element 522) in communication with the interface (figure 5, element 520), and means for selective directing a facsimile signal between the telephone line, the network interface and the facsimile receiving/sending station (figure 5, elements 570, locations A and B).

As to claim 19, Feder discloses the network wherein said network interface comprises a personal computer (figure 5, elements 530, 550).

As to claims 20 and 26, Feder discloses a facsimile transmitting/receiving system (at least figures 1 and 5-7) comprising a sending computer (server 130 in figure 1 or a computer A, element 530 in figure 5 is a sending computer), a computer network (140 in figure 1 or 540 in figure 5 is a network), and a receiving computer (server 150 in figure 1 or server 550 in figure 5 is a receiving computer) wherein the sending computer (130, 530) is comprised of an input device (110 fax is an input device) connected to a first controller (120, 520), in turn connected to a transmitter (130, 530) and the receiving computer (150, 550) is comprised of a receiver (150) connected to a second controller (160), in turn connected to an output device (170);

wherein the sending computer (130 in Figure 1, 530 in figure 5) is connected to the computer network (140 in figure 1, 540 in figure 5), which is in turn connected to the receiving computer (150, 550); and wherein the input device (110) is capable of scanning a first document and providing a standard facsimile signal of said document to the first controller (120), the first controller capable of converting the standard facsimile signal to a computer data signal and forwarding said computer data signal to the

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transmitter (130), the transmitter capable of transmitting said computer data signal to the receiver (140, 150), the receiver capable of forwarding said computer data signal to the second controller (160), the second controller capable of rendering a second document, which is corresponding to the first document, to the output device based upon the computer data signal (170).

As to claims 21, 27, 32-33, 35, 37, 41 and 46, Feder discloses the facsimile transmitting/receiving system wherein the input device is an off-the-shelf a facsimile machine (figure 1, element 110, 170; 570 in figure 5).

As to claim 22, Feder discloses the facsimile transmitting/receiving system wherein the second controller is capable of converting the computer data signal to a second standard facsimile signal and forwarding said second standard facsimile signal to the output device; and
the output device capable of generating the second document on paper (figures 2A; element 240)

As to claims 23, 44 and 48, Feder discloses the facsimile transmitting/receiving system wherein the output device is an off-the-shelf facsimile machine (figure 1, element 170).

As to claim 24, Feder discloses the facsimile transmitting/receiving system wherein the output device is a printer (figures 1, 5; fax includes printer inherently).

As to claims 25, 28, 31 and 40, Feder discloses the facsimile transmitting/receiving system wherein the computer network is a TCP/IP network (column 6, lines 33-40).

As to claim 29, Feder discloses a method of transmitting a facsimile copy of a document from a first location (110) to a second location (170) comprising the steps of:

scanning a first document into an input device at the first location (Fax machine 110 scans the document to convert into a standard facsimile signal) to generate a standard facsimile signal;

forwarding the standard facsimile signal to a first processor (facsimile signal is transmitted to a server 130; column 5, lines 17-28) at the first location;

converting the standard facsimile signal to a computer data signal at the first location (column 5, lines 17-28);

transmitting the computer data signal to a second processor at the second location (column 5, lines 25-26);

rendering a second document substantially similar to the first document at the second location (column 5, lines 27-34).

As to claims 30 and 39, Feder discloses the method wherein the transmitting is accomplished via a computer network (figure 1, element 140; network reads on computer network; figure 5, element 540).

As to claim 34, Feder discloses the method further comprising the steps of:

converting the computer data signal to a second standard facsimile signal at the second location (figures); forwarding the second standard facsimile signal to an output device at the second location (figures 7).

As to claim 36, Fender discloses a method of transmitting a facsimile copy of a document from a first location (110) to a second location (170; figures 1, 5-7) comprising the steps of:

creating a computer data signal representing a first document at the first location (column 5, lines 17-28);

transmitting a computer data signal from a first processor at the first location to a second processor at the second location (column 5, lines 25-26);

converting the computer data signal to a standard facsimile signal at the second location (column 5, lines 27-34); and

forwarding the second standard facsimile signal to an output device at the second location (column 5, lines 27-34);

rendering a second document corresponding to the first document at the second location (column 5, lines 27-34).

Claims 38, 43, 45 and 47 are similarly analyzed at least as claims 11, 29, 36 above and rejected.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 53-60 are allowed.

The prior art on record fails to teach or fairly suggest, singly or in combination that the interface further comprises one or more switches for selectively controlling

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electronic communication between (1) said line and said computer based system and (2) said line and said facsimile machine.

Other prior art cited

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Manning et al. (US 6,157,846) disclose a method of and apparatus for providing an interface between an analog facsimile device and a wireless network.

Yokoyama (US 6,067,172) discloses a terminal coupled to integrated services digital network having confirmation call operation.

Maeda (US 6,437,873 B1) discloses an internet facsimile apparatus, network system having the same, and method of controlling the same.

Contact Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kanji Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-7454. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lillis Eileen can be reached on (571) 272-6928 The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571)-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kanji Patel
Art Unit 2624
3/17/07


KANJI BHAI PATEL
PRIMARY EXAMINER